

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M18

**Records of the Office
of Indian Affairs
Registers of Letters Received
1824-1880**



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON: 1975

GERALD R. FORD

President of the United States

ARTHUR F. SAMPSON

Administrator of General Services

JAMES B. RHOADS

Archivist of the United States

The records reproduced in the microfilm publication

are from

Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Record Group 75

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
REGISTERS OF LETTERS RECEIVED
1824-1880

On the 126 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the registers of letters received by the Office of Indian Affairs from 1824, the date of its establishment, through 1880. Each roll reproduces a single register.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs was established within the War Department on March 11, 1824, by order of Secretary of War John C. Calhoun. The Bureau operated informally within the War Department from 1824 to 1832, when an act (4 Stat. 564) authorized the appointment of a Commissioner of Indian Affairs to direct and manage, under the supervision of the Secretary of War, all matters arising from relations with the Indians. An 1849 act (9 Stat. 395) transferred the Bureau from the War Department to the newly established Department of the Interior, where it has since remained. Although Secretary Calhoun used the term "Bureau" in his order, the name "Office of Indian Affairs" soon became common usage. The name "Bureau of Indian Affairs" was not formally adopted until 1947.

The central office of the Bureau was primarily responsible for administration. The field officials maintained contact with the Indians and carried out the functional operations.

During the 19th century there were two principal types of field jurisdictions: superintendencies and agencies. Superintendents had general responsibility for Indian affairs in a geographic area, usually a Territory but sometimes a larger area. Agents were immediately responsible for the affairs of one or more tribes. The policy of giving supervisory authority over a number of agencies to a superintendent was discontinued in the 1870's, and by 1878 the last superintendency was abolished. Thereafter, all agents reported directly to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Bureau also employed other kinds of field officers. Purchasing and disbursing agents were concerned, respectively, with obtaining goods and with distributing either goods or money. Emigration agents aided in transferring Indians from one area to another. Enrolling agents prepared rolls for annuity disbursements, land allotments, and other purposes. There were also treaty commissioners, inspectors (beginning in 1873), and special agents for specific missions, such as the investigation of the conduct of regular field employees or the settlement of claims.

The registers reproduced in this microfilm publication list all letters received by the Bureau. The information given for each letter includes the name of the writer; the date it was written and, beginning in April 1834, the date it was received;

the place where it was written; a summary of its contents; the jurisdiction or other heading under which it was filed; and, beginning in July 1836, the file number assigned to each letter upon its receipt.

Starting in December 1846, when subdivisions of the central office were formally established, a notation was made of the division to which a letter was referred for reply or other action. Although the names of these divisions varied, they were most commonly known as "Land," "Civilization," "Finance," and "Files and Records." In 1873 the Medical and Education Division assumed some of the duties of the Civilization Division, and in 1876 the Accounts Division was established. After April 1834, there also may be references to related records and an indication of the final action taken concerning a letter.

Letters were registered in the appropriate alphabetical section, usually by the first letter of the writer's surname, in order of their receipt. The headings "I" and "J" were combined for filing and registering purposes. Correspondence from certain officials was registered under letters indicating their offices. For example, letters from the President were registered under "P"; from the Secretary of War, under "W" or "S"; from the Secretary of the Interior, under "I"; and from the Second Auditor, under "A" or "S." Early correspondence from these officials often was registered under their surnames. Letters from Indians usually were registered under the name of the tribe; those from businessmen, under the name of the firm.

Correspondence from superintendents and agents usually was entered in the registers under their surnames. The major exception is correspondence from Territorial Governors serving as ex officio superintendents; these letters were usually registered under the name of the Territory. The other exception is letters from superintendents and agents from April to December 1877; these were registered under the name of the jurisdiction.

Enclosures were not registered separately; their existence is occasionally mentioned in the letter summaries in the registers. There are some cross-references to enclosures and to letters registered under a name different from the expected one, but these cross-references are used sporadically.

Occasional variations in the practice of making entries in the registers are noted in "Introductory Notes" that appear at the beginning of the microfilm rolls.

Most of the letters registered in these volumes are filed with the main series of letters received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-81 (M234), but many are filed elsewhere. Some were referred to officials outside the Office of Indian Affairs; after April 1834 these referrals are noted in the registers. Other

letters were transferred from the main series of correspondence to some other series of records, such as the treaty files and the special files, established by the Office of Indian Affairs. These transfers were not always noted in the registers.

The registers reproduced in this microfilm publication are part of the records in the National Archives of the United States designated as Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75. National Archives and Records Service microfilm publications containing related records from the same record group are: M234, *Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-81*; M574, *Special Files of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1807-1904*; T494, *Documents Relating to the Negotiation of Ratified and Unratified Treaties With Various Tribes of Indians, 1801-69*; M21, *Letters Sent by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1881*; M348, *Report Books of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1838-1885*; M15, *Records of the Office of the Secretary of War, Letters Sent, Indian Affairs, 1800-1824*; and M271, *Letters Received by the Office of the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, 1800-1823*.

These introductory remarks were prepared by Michael A. Goldman.



CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>
1	Jan. 1, 1824-Dec. 31, 1826
2	Jan. 1, 1827-Dec. 31, 1830
3	Jan. 1, 1831-Dec. 31, 1832
4	Jan. 1, 1833-Mar. 31, 1834
5	Apr. 1, 1834-Jan. 31, 1835
6	Feb. 1, 1835-Mar. 28, 1836
7	Mar. 29-Dec. 8, 1836
8	Dec. 9, 1836-June 2, 1837
9	June 3-Sept. 19, 1837
10	Sept. 20-Dec. 31, 1837
11	Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1838
12	Apr. 1-June 12, 1838
13	June 13-Sept. 24, 1838
14	Sept. 25-Dec. 31, 1838
15	Jan. 1-Mar. 12, 1839
16	Mar. 13-July 31, 1839
17	Aug. 1, 1839-Jan. 31, 1840
18	Feb. 1-July 2, 1840
19	July 3, 1840-Feb. 27, 1841
20	Mar. 1-July 31, 1841
21	Aug. 1, 1841-Jan. 31, 1842
22	Feb. 1-June 30, 1842
23	July 1-Dec. 31, 1842
24	Jan. 1-May 31, 1843
25	June 1-Oct. 31, 1843
26	Nov. 1, 1843-Mar. 3, 1844
27	Mar. 4-June 26, 1844
28	June 25-Oct. 31, 1844
29	Nov. 1, 1844-Apr. 1, 1845
30	Apr. 1-Sept. 1, 1845
31	Sept. 1, 1845-Feb. 1, 1846
32	Feb. 2-Nov. 30, 1846
33	Dec. 1, 1846-June 30, 1847
34	July 1, 1847-Mar. 31, 1848
35	Apr. 1-Dec. 31, 1848
36	Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1849
37	Jan. 1-Oct. 11, 1850
38	Oct. 12, 1850-Apr. 30, 1851
39	May 1-Dec. 31, 1851
40	Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1852
41	Jan. 1-Oct. 4, 1853
42	Oct. 5, 1853-May 14, 1854
43	May 15, 1854-Jan. 3, 1855
44	Jan. 4-July 31, 1855
45	Aug. 1-Dec. 31, 1855
46	Jan. 1-June 30, 1856
47	July 1-Dec. 31, 1856
48	Jan. 1-June 30, 1857

RollInclusive Dates

49	July 1-Dec. 31, 1857
50	Jan. 1-June 30, 1858
51	July 1-Dec. 31, 1858
52	Jan. 1-June 30, 1859
53	July 1-Dec. 31, 1859
54	Jan. 1-May 31, 1860
55	June 1-Dec. 31, 1860
56	Jan. 1-June 30, 1861
57	July 1-Dec. 31, 1861
58	Jan. 1-June 30, 1862
59	July 1-Dec. 31, 1862
60	Jan. 1-June 30, 1863
61	July 1-Dec. 31, 1863
62	Jan. 1-May 31, 1864
63	June 1-Dec. 31, 1864
64	Jan. 1-June 30, 1865
65	July 1-Dec. 31, 1865
66	Jan. 1-Apr. 30, 1866
67	May 1-Aug. 31, 1866
68	Sept. 1-Dec. 31, 1866
69	Jan. 2-Mar. 31, 1867
70	Apr. 1-June 30, 1867
71	July 1-Sept. 30, 1867
72	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1867
73	Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1868
74	Apr. 1-June 30, 1868
75	July 1-Sept. 30, 1868
76	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1868
77	Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1869
78	Apr. 1-June 30, 1869
79	July 1-Sept. 21, 1869
80	Sept. 22-Dec. 31, 1869
81	Jan. 1-Mar. 30, 1870
82	Apr. 1-June 30, 1870
83	July 1-Sept. 30, 1870
84	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1870
85	Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1871
86	Apr. 1-June 30, 1871
87	July 1-Sept. 30, 1871
88	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1871
89	Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1872
90	Apr. 1-June 30, 1872
91	July 1-Sept. 30, 1872
92	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1872
93	Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1873
94	Apr. 1-June 30, 1873
95	July 1-Sept. 30, 1873
96	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1873
97	Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1874
98	Apr. 1-June 30, 1874

RollInclusive Dates

99	July 1-Sept. 30, 1874
100	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1874
101	Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1875
102	Apr. 1-June 30, 1875
103	July 1-Sept. 30, 1875
104	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1875
105	Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1876
106	Apr. 1-June 30, 1876
107	July 1-Sept. 30, 1876
108	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1876
109	Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1877
110	Apr. 1-June 30, 1877
111	July 1-Sept. 30, 1877
112	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1877
113	Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1878
114	Apr. 1-June 30, 1878
115	July 1-Sept. 30, 1878
116	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1878
117	Jan. 1-Apr. 30, 1879, A-M
118	Jan. 1-June 30, 1879, N-Z
119	May 1-Aug. 31, 1879, A-M
120	Sept. 1-Dec. 31, 1879, A-M
121	July 1-Dec. 31, 1879, N-Z
122	Jan. 1-May 31, 1880, A-M
123	June 1-Oct. 31, 1880, A-M
124	Nov. 1-Dec. 31, 1880, A-M
125	Jan. 1-May 31, 1880, N-Z
126	June 1-Dec. 31, 1880, N-Z